

Message Text

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61

ORIGIN XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /051 R

DRAFTED BY: XMB:RRSIMONINI/SLV

APPROVED BY: EB/IFD/ODF RASWART

XMB: RDCRAFTON

XMB: EJO'CONNOR

ARA/NC: JWSONANDRES

----- 104528

R 221338Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

INFO AMCONSUL MARACAIBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJECT: RE: PERFORACIONES ALTA MAR, C.A. - EXIMBANK DIRECT
CREDIT 3406 AND GUARANTEE 3407

REF: CARACAS 8644

1. AS DISCUSSED DURING VISIT OF ROBERT SIMONINI IN MAY TO CARACAS
AND MARACAIBO, EXIMBANK HAS OUTSTANDING A LOAN AND GUARANTEE TOTAL-
LING \$650,000 TO PERFORACIONES ALTA MAR, C.A. INTEREST IS BEING
PAID MONTHLY BUT NO PRINCIPAL PAYMENT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED SINCE
JANUARY, 1975 WHEN THE TWO ALTAMAR DRILLING RIGS STOPPED WORKING
DUE TO A LOSS OF CONTRACTS.

2. EXIMBANK HAS BEEN CLOSELY FOLLOWING THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF
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JOHN ASKEW REPORTED REF TEL AND THE ALLEGED BRIBING OF GOVERNMENT

OFFICIALS AND ITS EFFECT ON ALTAMAR OPERATIONS. AN ARTICLE IN THE JULY 15 ISSUE OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (PAGE 22) STATES THAT A VENEZUELAN JUDGE HAS ORDERED THE ARREST OF SEVEN PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE CASE INCLUDING JOHN ASKEW.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S/COUNSULATE'S COMMENTS ON THESE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY MIGHT AFFECT (A) JOHN ASKEW, (B) THE OPERATIONS OF ALTAMAR, (C) ALTAMAR'S OBLIGATIONS TO EXIMBANK AND (D) THE DISPOSITION OF ALTAMAR'S ASSETS INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPROPRIATION IN THE EVENT MR. ASKEW IS ACTUALLY ARRESTED AND CONVICTED. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 22 JUL 1976
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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